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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Letter dated 9 October 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, a letter addressed to you by Mr. Ilija Djukic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agend item 8.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 9 October 1992 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

I should like, first of all, to express my pleasure that I had the opportunity, immediately upon my appointment as Foreign Minister, to be present during the talk that Mr. Milan Panić, Federal Prime Minister, recently had with you in New York.

That meeting was arranged immediately before the adoption on 22 September 1992 of General Assembly resolution 47/1, under which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall not participate in the work of the General Assembly. We were then encouraged by Your Excellency's words to the effect that, in spite of all, you continued to count on us and our cooperation in the settlement of the problems facing Yugoslavia and on our joint contribution to the negotiations being conducted at Geneva within the framework of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia. Furthermore, I gained the impression from my discussions with a large number of my counterparts during my visit to New York that the decision that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall not participate in the work of the General Assembly implied non-participation in plenary meetings and in the work of the seven General Assembly committees.

I take this opportunity to convey to you the disagreement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with the opinion of the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, regarding the status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, according to which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is denied the right to "participate in the work of the General Assembly, its subsidiary organs" and conferences and meetings convened by the Assembly. However, it is not being denied "the right to participate in the work of organs other than Assembly bodies" (see A/47/485, annex).

This interpretation has given rise to increasing examples of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia not being allowed to participate in bodies other than General Assembly bodies. For instance, a representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was prevented from participating in the meeting of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held at Geneva on 28 September 1992. The explanation was that the decision taken by the General Assembly on Yugoslavia's non-participation related also to the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, including UNCTAD, meaning an "empty chair" for Yugoslavia at UNCTAD meetings.

We were particularly surprised by the efforts to prevent the participation of the Yugoslav delegation in the meetings of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme and its subcommittees being

held at Geneva from 1 to 9 October 1992. While accepting even conditionally the interpretation that resolution 47/1 related also to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, we cannot, however, but be deeply concerned over this decision, in view of the fact that there are, at present, over 500,000 refugees from war zones in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I believe that you will agree with my view that the exclusion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from the work of UNHCR will primarily affect those innocent men, women and children.

We are equally concerned about hints that the question of Yugoslavia's status will soon be raised also in other United Nations bodies such as the Economic and Social Council.

It is not my intention to use this opportunity to repeat what the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has done in the framework of its policy of peace, which was explained to you by Prime Minister Panić. However, I would like to assure you once again that it will continue to do everything in its power to eliminate the reasons for which the Security Council imposed sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In these efforts, priority will be accorded to the resumption of the process of achieving peace in the territory of Yugoslavia that is now going on within working groups at the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia at Geneva. An active contribution and participation by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, both in the Geneva talks and the United Nations and in other international forums discussing ways and means of settling the Yugoslav crisis, precisely serve the purpose of finding a just and lasting solution to all problems existing in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

(Signed) Ilija DJUKIC

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